

Bugging Cell Held Legal If Inmate Agrees

NEW YORK, Feb. 22 (UPI)

A Federal judge ruled Monday that the government may listen in on a conversation between a prisoner and his lawyer if the prisoner consents.

The ruling was made by U.S. District Judge Edward C. McLean in a bribery case involving Attorney Frances Kahn and her former client, Charles Hedges.

Miss Kahn sought to suppress a tape recording of talks she held with Hedges in Westchester County Jail in 1963 and 1964.

In a 22-page decision McLean rejected arguments by Miss Kahn and the civil Liberties Union that the recording violated the lawyer-client privilege and that the prison was a temporary extension of the lawyer's office, thus constitutionally protected from eavesdropping.

The judge said the lawyer-client privilege lay wholly with the client and his permission was sufficient to permit taping of consultations.